

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

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The Association of Governing Boards held its national trusteeship conference in San Francisco at the end of March. Council member Walter Baker attended, as did I. We had opportunities to meet socially with delegations from several Kentucky universities.

Governor Patton and Governor Tom Ridge of Pennsylvania are co-chairing a four-year higher education project for the National Governors' Association. As part of this project, NGA is holding workshops around the country. Ron Carson, Mary Beth Susman, and Keith Bird, chancellor of KCTCS, had leadership roles in the workshop held in Pittsburgh late last month. We are assisting the governor's office in planning other NGA activities, some of which will be in Kentucky.

Governor Patton convened a press conference with Major General John R. Groves and Mary Beth Susman recently to announce that the Kentucky National Guard and Kentucky Virtual University are opening distance learning sites in armories in three counties (Tompkinsville in Monroe County, Jackson in Breathitt County, and Marion in Crittenden County). The sites will be available to members of the Guard and to the civilian population, some of whom will find it more convenient or more comfortable to do coursework in the armory. Eventually, the Guard hopes to have sites in all its armories, providing advanced education to Guard members and the general population throughout Kentucky.

I am pleased to tell you that Sue Moore and Patrick Kelly have been asked to work with the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. Sue is serving as a consultant to the National Center's *Measuring Up 2002* Review Group, which advises the National Center on data and methodology. Patrick has been named an associate at the National Center. Associates participate in national symposia related to the work of the National Center, contribute to the agenda of the National Center, and serve on advisory panels.

As this academic year ends, several people are leaving. Lee Todd has resigned from the council in anticipation of assuming the presidency of the University of Kentucky July 1, 2001. I am very pleased that the governor has appointed John Hall to replace Lee. Mr. Hall is the former chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Ashland Inc. and is distinguished among Kentucky's business leaders for his steadfast commitment to education reform at all levels. He also is the former president of the board of trust of Vanderbilt University. Mr. Hall will add enormously to the council's deliberations.

Mary Beth Susman has resigned as chief executive officer of the Kentucky Virtual University. She will be returning to Colorado in mid-June. There she will assume the position of vice president for education services of the Colorado Community College System. Mary Beth has made a defining contribution to the virtual university and the virtual library. We shall miss her presence but benefit greatly from the firm foundation she has built for the KYVU and the KYVL.

George Graves also will leave the council staff in mid-June. George has contributed greatly during the past two years to shaping and explaining postsecondary education policy as it is influenced by the council. When the documents you read are clear and to the point, usually it is because George has had a hand in crafting them.

Elisabeth Zinser, chancellor of the University of Kentucky, is leaving to become president of Southern Oregon University. She has provided critical leadership in the development and implementation of the statewide engineering strategy.

Shirley Raines, vice chancellor and dean of the University of Kentucky College of Education, is leaving to become president of the University of Memphis. She has been a constant and helpful presence in the statewide discussions of teacher quality.

Finally, two university presidents are attending their final meeting of the council. Both Charles Wethington, president of the University of Kentucky, and Kern Alexander, president of Murray State University, will relinquish their positions June 30, 2001. They have worked hard for the people of Kentucky, and we owe them our thanks.